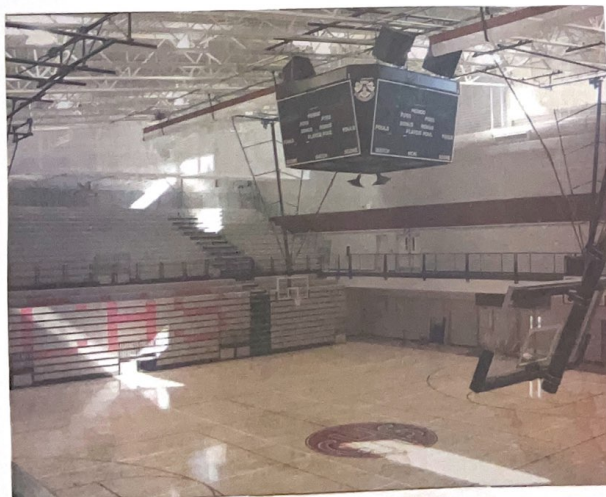




The new Camas High School gymnasium is home to the only ceiling mounted center court scoreboard in the area, except for the Rose Garden Arena in Portland, Ore.



CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL: THE PAPERMAKERS GET A NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART HOME

It's big, it's also quaint, and the new Camas High School, after five years of planning, talking and building, and at a cost of \$46 million, is now open. At more than 216,000 square feet, it's been designed to meet the needs of the present and long into the future.



The new school's cost of \$46 million was covered by a bond issue approved in 1999. That figure, explained planning principal Harvey Keene, includes preparation of the site on the hill east of Lacamas Heights Elementary, and soft costs such as "taxes, furniture, equipment, paving, plants, light bulbs and toilet paper." It was built to absorb some growth and designed for easy expansion, with all of the infrastructure in place to extend the two classroom wings. With the district's enrollment growing 10 percent since last fall, that project may come sooner than anyone thought.

Building dedication scheduled for Sept. 13

The entire community is invited to attend a "Gala Grand Opening Dedication" at the new Camas High School Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Attendees can get an inside look at the building and its programs, like the student-managed food court and the branch of the Clark County School Employees Credit Union and the Papermaker Preschool program. Student mentors in the school's Ignite program will lead curious patrons through the facility.

Principal Mike Norland will serve as emcee for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, in which Camas School District Superintendent Milt Dennison, Planning Principal Harvey Keene and 26-year Camas School Board member Mel Cardon will all make speeches.

Refreshments will be served. Ragpicker Mark Tomasetti, CHS social studies teacher, will provide entertainment. Additionally the school's jazz band will perform in the commons area.

Demonstrations featuring art and technology will showcase highlights of the approximately 270,000-square-foot building, which is located at 28900 S.E. 15th St. in Camas.

For more information, contact the CHS main office at 817-4441.

The commons area has several eateries, the American Grill, The Pizza Cucina, and Healthy Bite. Students can choose from standard school food to high-end appetizers. Parents can purchase food debit cards for their children to buy meals and beverages. There's an ATM, working credit union, school store, and beautiful library.

The commons area also has a massive projection television for school and public events.



Some points-of-interest around the new school are classrooms that are set up for wireless technology (top right), the Camas School District's print shop (right), and kilns that outfit the ceramics studio in the arts wing of the building (far right).



REFLECTING ON THE FUTURE



Dawn Folsom/Portland Tribune

Chris Yang, of Camas, recently had an opportunity to see the exterior of the new Camas High School, as part of "Senior Citizen Appreciation Day." The Feb. 5 event attracted more than 50 local residents who were entertained by fine arts students and treated to complimentary spaghetti lunches. The new school is scheduled to welcome students this fall. Harvey Keene, planning principal of the new CHS, said the current high school building could become a middle school to alleviate overcrowding at Skyridge, but no official decision has been made.

